

Applicant: Cheng et al.
Application No. 10/626,999
Page 7

P910220

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 15, 21 and 24, and have cancelled claims 5, 22 and 24. Claims 1-4, 6-21 and 23 are presently pending in the application.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Wayne P. Amsbury for his thorough search and review of the prior-art, his careful consideration and examination of the present application and claims, and his indication that claims 5-13, 15-20 and 24 contain allowable subject matter. In particular, Examiner Amsbury stated that claims 5-13, 15-20 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Ankutse et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,727,106), and rejected claims 4, 14, and 23 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ankutse et al. and La et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,761,064). Applicants respectfully disagree with these rejections.

Regarding these rejections, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Frantz Coby for the multiple correspondences from Applicants' representative, Kenton R. Mullins and his assistant to Examiner Amsbury's supervisor and to Examiner Coby, on days leading up to and on the day of June 26, 2006, regarding the status of the present application and potential strategies and options for responding to the outstanding Office Action in view of the prosecution history and the transfer status of the current application to a different Patent Examiner.

In view of the reassignment of this patent application to Examiner Coby, Applicants would like to take this opportunity to provide Examiner Coby with a few references to the present application in order to elucidate particular implementations of the presently claimed invention. Of course, it is presumed that the Examiner will perform his own usual complete and thorough review of the present application and claims.

Applicant: Cheng et al.
Application No. 10/626,999
Page 8

P910220

Now, dependent claim 5 was indicated by the former Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. This claim 5 has been incorporated into independent claim 1, while not all of intervening dependent claim 2 (from which claim 5 depended) was incorporated into independent claim 1. These two claims 1 and 2, as presented now following the entering of this amendment, are provided below with reference to the method diagram of FIG. 3.

1. A method for creating a new control chart, the method comprising:

providing a database including a plurality of SPC control charts and a plurality of tables (cf.300, 305 or 310 of FIG. 3);

determining that information stored in at least one of the plurality of tables has changed (cf.315 of FIG. 3);

determining whether the changed information can be described by at least one of the plurality of SPC control charts (cf. 320 of FIG. 3);

updating the at least one of the plurality of SPC control charts with the changed information, upon a determination that the changed information can be described by at least one of the plurality of SPC control charts (cf.325 of FIG. 3);

creating a new control chart that can describe the changed information, upon a determination that the changed information cannot be described by at least one of the plurality of SPC control charts (cf.330 of FIG. 3); and

determining whether the new control chart is a new trend chart (cf.335 of FIG. 3).

2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

providing the database includes storing the plurality of SPC control charts and the plurality of tables in the database (cf.310 of FIG. 3); and

the new control chart is created in a basic record system that includes a server coupled to the database (cf.330 of FIG. 3).

Also, dependent claim 24 was indicated by the former Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. This claim 24 and intervening claim 22 have been incorporated into independent

Applicant: Cheng et al.
Application No. 10/626,999
Page 9

P910220

claim 21. Claims 21, as now presented following the entering of this amendment, is provided below with reference to the disclosure of the exemplary implementation of FIG. 3.

21. An SPC control chart building method, comprising:
 - checking data stored in a database that stores a plurality of SPC control charts and tables to ascertain whether any of the data has changed (cf. 315 of FIG. 3);
 - if any of the data has changed, checking at least one of the plurality of tables and determining whether the changed data can be described by any of the plurality of SPC control charts (cf.320 of FIG. 3);
 - building a new control chart if the SPC control charts cannot describe the changed data (cf.330 of FIG. 3);
 - determining whether the new control chart is a new trend chart (cf.335 of FIG. 3);
 - if the new control chart is a new trend chart, calculating values of a plurality of control limits of the new control chart using a predetermined function (cf.340 of FIG. 3);
 - if the new control chart is not a new trend chart and the control limits of the new control chart are the same as the ones in the existing SPC control charts, using on-line values to fit into the control limits of the new control chart (cf. 350 of FIG. 3); and
 - if the new control chart is not a new trend chart and the control limits of the new control chart are not the same as the ones in the existing SPC control charts, generating an alarm (cf. 355 of FIG. 3).

Applicants respectfully submit that the prior-art references of record, taken separately or together, neither disclose nor suggest any of Applicants' claimed methods for creating a new control chart, including, among other things, "providing a database including a plurality of SPC control charts and a plurality of tables; determining that information stored in at least one of the plurality of tables has changed; determining whether the changed information can be described by at least one of the plurality of SPC control charts; updating the ... SPC control charts with the changed information, upon a determination that the changed information can be described by at least one of the plurality of SPC control charts; creating a new control chart that can describe the changed information, upon a determination that the changed information cannot be described by

Applicant: Cheng et al.
Application No. 10/626,999
Page 10

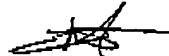
P910220

at least one of the plurality of SPC control charts; and determining whether the new control chart is a new trend chart," as recited in independent, amended claim 1.

Moreover, independent, amended claim 21 is directed to a combination of method limitations for building an SPC chart, including, among other things, "checking data stored in a database that stores a plurality of SPC control charts and tables to ascertain whether any of the data has changed; if any of the data has changed, checking at least one of the plurality of tables and determining whether the changed data can be described by any of the plurality of SPC control charts; building a new control chart if the SPC control charts cannot describe the changed data; determining whether the new control chart is a new trend chart; if the new control chart is a new trend chart, calculating values of a plurality of control limits of the new control chart using a predetermined function; if the new control chart is not a new trend chart and the control limits of the new control chart are the same as the ones in the existing SPC control charts, using on-line values to fit into the control limits of the new control chart; and if the new control chart is not a new trend chart and the control limits of the new control chart are not the same as the ones in the existing SPC control charts, generating an alarm," which is neither disclosed nor suggested by any of the prior-art references of record, taken separately or together. Accordingly, Applicants request that the outstanding rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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